

(12) INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION PUBLISHED UNDER THE PATENT COOPERATION TREATY (PCT)

(19) World Intellectual Property Organization  
International Bureau



(43) International Publication Date  
4 August 2005 (04.08.2005)

PCT

(10) International Publication Number  
**WO 2005/069743 A3**

(51) International Patent Classification<sup>7</sup>: **A61B 17/06**

(21) International Application Number:  
PCT/IN2005/000027

(22) International Filing Date: 20 January 2005 (20.01.2005)

(25) Filing Language: English

(26) Publication Language: English

(30) Priority Data:  
53/CHE/2004 23 January 2004 (23.01.2004) IN

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(81) Designated States (*unless otherwise indicated, for every  
kind of national protection available*): AE, AG, AL, AM,  
AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BW, BY, BZ, CA, CH, CN,  
CO, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DK, DM, DZ, EC, EE, EG, ES, FI,  
GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE,

KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MA, MD,  
MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, MZ, NA, NI, NO, NZ, OM, PG,  
PH, PL, PT, RO, RU, SC, SD, SE, SG, SK, SL, SM, SY,  
TJ, TM, TN, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, US, UZ, VC, VN, YU,  
ZA, ZM, ZW.

(84) Designated States (*unless otherwise indicated, for every  
kind of regional protection available*): ARIPO (BW, GH,  
GM, KE, LS, MW, MZ, NA, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZM,  
ZW), Eurasian (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM),  
European (AT, BE, BG, CH, CY, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI,  
FR, GB, GR, HU, IE, IS, IT, LT, LU, MC, NL, PL, PT, RO,  
SE, SI, SK, TR), OAPI (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN,  
GQ, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).

**Declarations under Rule 4.17:**

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patent (Rule 4.17(ii)) for all designations
- of inventorship (Rule 4.17(iv)) for US only

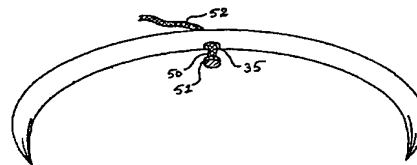
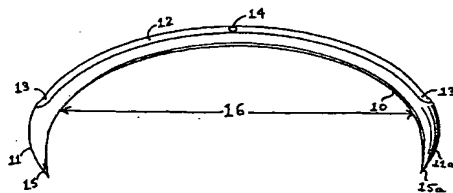
**Published:**

- with international search report

(88) Date of publication of the international search report:  
23 March 2006

*For two-letter codes and other abbreviations, refer to the "Guid-  
ance Notes on Codes and Abbreviations" appearing at the begin-  
ning of each regular issue of the PCT Gazette.*

(54) Title: **SUTURE NEEDLE AND SUTURE ASSEMBLY**



(57) Abstract: The present invention provides a suture needle and suture assembly for use in a surgery. The suture needle comprises a curvilinear, arched shaft (16) tapering at both ends (11, 11a) to form tips (15, 15a) for impalement. A groove (12) for housing the suture is provided on the needle approximately equally remotely located from the tips (15, 15a) and running along its length either on the inner or the outer surfaces. The needle has a hole (14) through the center of the groove (12) and extending to the inner and outer surfaces of the shaft (16). A fastening means such as a crimp or plug (51) secures the suture (52) to the suture needle. The suture (52) comprises a regular portion, and a narrower section housed within the groove. The hole (14) comprises two coaxially aligned hollow cylindrical cavities with differing diameters. Fastening means is of diameter equal to the diameter of the cylindrical cavity with larger diameter so as to enable resilient fastening.

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